

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024958

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ORIGIN AF-18

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/048 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:JALINEHAN

APPROVED BY AF/P:JALINEHAN

AF/W:CLDARIS

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R 062135Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA NG

SUBJECT:WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

REF: NIAMEY 367

1. UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN FOR GON SENSITIVITIES ABOUT VISITS TO REFUGEE CAMP AND MUST RELY ON YOUR JUDGMENT. NONETHELESS REASON FOR WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS VISIT TO NIAMEY IS TO HAVE FIRST-HAND, IF BRIEF, VIEW OF DROUGHT SITUATION WHICH THEY ASSUMED COULD INCLUDE VISIT TO REFUGEE CAMP.

2. HAVE DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH GROUP LEADER DR. GRANT WHO STRESSED THAT FELLOWS WOULD FIND SITUATION DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND. SINCE GROUP DEPARTING FEB 7 AGREED THAT IT TOO LATE TO CHANGE SCHEDULE IN ORDER OMIT NIAMEY.

3. DR. GRANT WILL DISCUSS SITUATION WITH YOU AFTER ARRIVAL AND WILL OF COURSE ACCEPT YOUR JUDGMENT ON VISITS TO REFUGEE CAMP. HOWEVER, ANY ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT PRESENT PICTURE OF DROUGHT'S IMPACT ON POPULATION WOULD BE USEFUL.

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4. GROUP WAS BRIEFED SEVERAL DAYS AGO ON SITUATION IN NIGER.

SUGGEST EMBASSY REITERATE AND UPDATE GROUP ON GON SENSITIVITIES IN INITIAL COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING. KISSINGER

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